

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00658 171138Z

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9046

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, GB

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
IN KIND

REFS: A. STATE A-1070

B. 76 STATE A-5760

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED QUESTIONS POSED REF B WITH OFFICIALS IN
MINISTRY OF PLAN AND WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP ONLY LIMITED INFORMATION
FOR USE BY OPIC IN ITS REEXAMINATION OF POLICIES GOVERNING
PROVISION OF POLITICAL RISK INVESTMENT INSURANCE ON TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND.

2. ACCORDING TO MINPLAN, GOG DOES TAKE INTO ACCOUNT COST AND
NATURE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ITS EVALUATION OF FOREIGN
INVESTMENT PROJECTS. RATHER THAN OUTRIGHT PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY
GOG PREFERS COOPERATIVE VENTURES WITH SOME PERCENTAGE OF GOG
OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION.

3. BECAUSE OF STRONG TRADITIONAL TIES WITH FRANCE, FRENCH
TECHNOLOGY IS PREDOMINANT IN GABON, YET GOG REMAINS INTERESTED IN
NEW TECHNOLOGY, REGARDLESS OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, WHICH WOULD
CONTRIBUTE TO GABON'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

4. TECHNICAL ADVISERS IN MINISTRIES ARE FRENCH, EMPLOYED BY
GOG THROUGH FRENCH FUND FOR AID AND COOPERATION (FAC). THESE
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ADVISERS CANNOT BE FULLY IMPARTIAL IN EVALUATION TECHNOLOGY
WHEN A FRENCH SYSTEM IS IN COMPETITION WITH THOSE OF OTHER
NATIONS. THE LIKELIHOOD OF OVERVALUING TECHNOLOGY ON ITS OWN
MERITS IS RATHER SMALL, EXCEPT WHEN OVERVALUING WOULD PROVIDE
FRENCH TECHNOLOGY WITH A COST ADVANTAGE.

5. GOG DOES CONSIDER COSTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND CONTRIBUTED

BY FOREIGN INVESTORS, BUT MINPLAN COULD PROVIDE NO REPEAT
NO INDICATION OF CRITERIA.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON PORTIONS OF LAWS, DECREES, ETC,
GOVERNING INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND WILL FORWARD ANY
AVAILABLE MATERIAL TO OPIC. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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